

Air Cav, IAF fly joint mission over Baghdad

By Sgt. Travis Zielinski
1st ACB, 1st Cav. Div.

CAMP TAJI, Iraq — Through a growing foundation of trust, friendship and detailed planning, two separate armed forces have taken their abilities to higher levels.

The leadership of 1st Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, has spent the last six months working with 2nd Squadron of the Iraqi Air Force — strengthening bonds.

This close relationship between U.S. military aviators and the IAF resulted in two AH-64D

Apache attack helicopters and two Iraqi UH-1 helicopters flying in formation together on a mission over Baghdad, Oct. 21, to display the combined strength of the partnership.

The main goal of the flight was to reiterate the trust between both the 1-227th and 2nd Squadron, said Lt. Col. Charles Dalcourt, from Baton Rouge, La., commander, 1st ACB.

“We want to show the Iraqi people, through this flight demonstration, that we’re linked together,” Dalcourt said. “Our relationship is solid and the Iraqi Air Force has emerged as a premier

and pre-eminent force here in Iraq for movement of their troops.”

Dalcourt said he established a relationship with 2nd Squadron on his last deployment to Iraq, which made the day a special one.

“This day has evolved through a lot of work over the last three and four years,” Dalcourt said. “To come to this point is not only a great sign of progress, but also a great sign of the mutual trust that has developed between the United States Army and the Iraqi Air Force.”

The American aviators took a step towards the background as

the Iraqi pilots ran the mission briefing and took the lead on the flight itself, showing the ability of the Iraqi Air Force to stand on its own, Dalcourt said.

“They are very competent pilots and many of them have upwards of over 5,000 hours (of flying),” Dalcourt said. “They’ve fought in the Iraq-Iran war and they’ve been fixed wing as well as rotary wing aviators, so they’re very capable.”

Chief Warrant Officer 4 Frank Almeraz, from Albuquerque, N.M., the standardization pilot in 1-227th, said although the Americans offered assistance, the Iraqi’s briefed the bulk of the mission themselves.

“We discussed the differences between the [Iraqi] Air Force and Army, but we tend to be more similar in the way we do things than I thought,” Almeraz said.

The joint mission was the first step in what Almeraz hoped would be a series of similar flights.

“Today is a plain, just getting started type of scenario,” Almeraz said. “We want to continue doing these missions and hopefully they’ll (the IAF) become more detailed.”

After numerous deployments, Almeraz said this was the first time he had flown an Apache alongside a Huey

“This is my fourth trip to Iraq ... my third at Taji and we’ve never been able to do a joint mission together,” Almeraz said.

“Sometimes we would do stuff where they would come from one side and we’d come from another, but we wouldn’t really mix. Today we will be part of the same formation.”



Photo by Sgt. Travis Zielinski

An AH-64D Apache attack helicopter (left) flies alongside an Iraqi UH-1 Huey (right), during a joint air mission between 1st Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, and 2nd Squadron of the Iraqi Air Force, Oct. 21.

101st Engineers praised for job well done

Photos by Sgt. Tracy Knowles
101st Eng. Bn., 225th Eng. Bde.



BAGHDAD — Pfc. Joshua Hughes (right), 1192nd Engineer Company, 101st Engineer Battalion, of Pueblo, Colo., receives a coin from 1st Cavalry Division's Command Sgt. Maj. Rory Malloy, of Campbellsburg, Ind., for combat excellence, Oct. 22.



CAMP TAJI, Iraq — Spc. Tomas Chavez (left), 277th Engineer Company, 101st Engineer Battalion, of New Braunfels, Texas, shakes hands with 1st Cavalry Division's Command Sgt. Maj. Rory Malloy, of Campbellsburg, Ind., Oct. 22.



CAMP TAJI, Iraq—1st Cavalry Division Command Sgt. Maj. Rory Malloy (right), of Campbellsburg, Ind., jokes around with Spc. Eric Salinas, with the 277th Engineer Company, 101st Engineer Battalion, of San Marcos, Texas, after awarding him a coin for combat excellence, here, Oct. 22.

First class of IA Strike Soldiers graduate

By Sgt. 1st Class Ron Burke
MND-B PAO

BAGHDAD — Sixty-nine Iraqi Army Soldiers stood at attention on the parade field at al-Muthana Air Base, here, Oct. 19, during a graduation ceremony for the first class of the Karkh Area Command Strike Team.

IA Soldiers from six different units, that formed the new team, trained together for six weeks under the tutelage of combat advisors from the U.S. Air Force, special operations, the KAC Advisory Team, and D Troop, Division Special Troops

Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division.

Training focused on movement and weapons skills, advanced small unit tactics, mounted combat patrols, intelligence gathering, explosives ordinance disposal, and physical fitness training, which culminated in a combat patrol in west Rashid.

"This is the first class of the Strike Team that will eventually number over 400 Soldiers," said Capt. John Stires, of Palatine, Ill., the KAC Advisory Team operations officer. "The Strike Team will be responsible for all quick response operations

for Multi-National Division—Baghdad west of the Tigris River."

The Strike Team was formed from collaborations between Iraqi Staff Gen. Ali Hamadi, the Karkh Area Commander and Brig. Gen. Frederick Rudesheim, the deputy commanding general for support with MND-B.

"We are honored that you are the first members of the Strike Team," said Ali during the ceremony. "We will serve Iraq, the Iraqi citizens and ensure security in Baghdad from insurgents and terrorists. We are very proud of the Karkh area units and this training class. Our thanks to Coalition forces who helped mold the Strike Team."

The Soldiers of D Troop, who trained the IA Soldiers, reflected on the last six weeks they've spent with them before the ceremony.

"These [IA] Soldiers have a lot of combat experience but no specific methods," said Sgt. Jose Munoz, a KAC instructor assigned to D Troop, DSTB, 1st Cav. Div. "We're teaching them how to be more effective and make them better Soldiers," said the Santa Barbara, Calif. native.

Sgt. Juan Bracero, another KAC instructor from Chicago, also assigned to D Troop, added that training goes back to muscle memory and they showed the Iraqis how to execute day-to-day operations and pretty soon they started doing everything on their own.

"We've accomplished something here," said Spc. Ervin Lee, a cavalry scout from Columbi-ana, Ohio. "They knew the principles of things like room clearing and we fine-tuned that. Now they'll be able to teach more of their own guys."

The IA soldiers' enthusiasm and dedication did not go un-



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Ron Burke

Iraqi Army color bearers wait to lead the first class of Strike Team graduates at the al-Muthana Air Base parade field, here, Oct. 19. The Karkh Area Command Advisory Team began training the IA in September at Joint Security Station Salam.

noticed.

"We know you've worked hard to get here," said Rudesheim during his speech to the Soldiers standing in formation. "You are proud examples of the Iraqi Army and your mission is more important than gaining trust. It's about demonstrating to the Iraqi people that you can function as an elite unit within the Iraqi Army."

With the sun was settling below the horizon, the Strike Team was called to attention, the command signaling the end of the ceremony. It may have been the end of the day, but it was the beginning of a new chapter for the IA and its Strike Team.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Ron Burke

Staff Sgt. Nicky Green, the noncommissioned officer in charge of the training for the Karkh Area Command Advisory Team, assigned to D Troop, Division Special Troops Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division, shakes hands with graduates of the six-week long training course for the KAC Strike Team, Oct. 19.

On This Day In History

The Erie Canal Opened

The Erie Canal opened on October 26, 1825, providing overland water transportation between the East Coast and the Great Lakes region. Under construction for eight years, the project was the vision of New York Governor DeWitt Clinton. He convinced the New York state legislature to commit seven million dollars to the construction of a 363-mile ditch, forty feet wide and four feet deep. The canal flowed from Buffalo on the east coast of Lake Erie, through the mountains near the Mohawk Valley west of Troy, and terminated at the upper Hudson River at Albany. A tremendous success, the waterway accelerated settlement of the upper Midwest including the founding of hundreds of towns such as Clinton, in DeWitt County, Illinois.

MND-B Pic of the day!



Photo by Sgt. Jon Soles, MND-B PAO

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – Sgt. Danielle Jennings of Princeton, Ill., offers a cool drink of water to her military working dog, Block, during a key leader engagement at the Tarmiyah Council meeting, here, Oct. 20.

FAMOUS FEATS OF CHUCK NORRIS



DID YOU KNOW?

Chuck Norris invented black. In fact, he invented the entire spectrum of visible light. Except pink. Tom Cruise invented pink.



Quote For Today

"Failure is the opportunity to begin again more intelligently."

— Henry Ford —

Iraq 3-Day Weather Report



Today
96° F | 69° F



Tomorrow
87° F | 62° F



Wednesday
91° F | 66° F

TRIVIA TIME!!

What is the name for the form of government controlled by a privileged, hereditary ruling class, generally resented by the middle and lower class?

Last Issue's Answer: Sherbet

Cav Round-Up radio newscast available

MND-B PAO

BAGHDAD — The Cav Round-Up is a three-minute radio newscast from Baghdad covering military units and events across Multi-National Division — Baghdad.

Today's Cav Round-Up # 164 was produced by SGT Lisa Heise, MND-B Public Affairs Office.

This newscast includes the following stories:

1. Soldiers of the 1472 Civil Affairs Company bring food and goodwill to Iraqi families to help celebrate the end of Ramadan. SGT Stephanie Logue, Multi-National Division - Baghdad, PAO.

Food was given to some of the families in rural Baghdad to celebrate the end of fasting.

2. Soldiers of C Troop, 5th Squadron, 73rd Airborne Recon-

naissance Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division and the Iraqi Federal Police deliver much needed water filters to families in the village of al-Tameem.

NIPR LINK: Cav Round-Up

SIPR LINK: Cav Round-Up

Check out more news at the 1st Cavalry Division's homepage:

www.hood.army.mil/1stcavdiv/

Trigger's Teasers

The objective of the game is to fill all the blank squares in a game with the correct numbers. There are three very simple constraints to follow: **Every row of 9 numbers must include all digits 1 through 9 in any order. Every column of 9 numbers must include all digits 1 through 9 in any order. Every 3 by 3 subsection of the 9 by 9 square must include all digits 1 through 9.**

Every Sudoku game begins with a number of squares already filled in, and the difficulty of each game is largely a function of how many squares are filled in. The more squares that are known, the easier it is to figure out which numbers go in the open squares. As you fill in squares correctly, options for the remaining squares are narrowed and it becomes easier to fill them in.

Yesterday's Answers

6	8	7	1	4	2	3	9	5
9	2	1	8	5	3	4	6	7
5	4	3	9	7	6	1	2	8
4	7	5	3	8	9	2	1	6
3	1	8	2	6	7	5	4	9
2	6	9	4	1	5	7	8	3
7	9	4	6	3	1	8	5	2
8	3	2	5	9	4	6	7	1
1	5	6	7	2	8	9	3	4



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